

## NEWPORT & GWENT PHILATELY

November 2014  
Number 52

### Club News

Bernie Riff, who had been a stalwart of the club until his illness, passed away on 11 November 2014. We have fond memories of his unceasing good humour and his knowledge. Bernie had a particular interest in Strasbourg and Leipzig.



The club dinner was held on the following day. We raised our glasses in memory of Bernie and in thanks to Gwen Hussey, who had passed away a year earlier. The meal, at the Rhiwderin Inn, was enjoyed by 23 members and guests.



### Autumn Fair

The club hosted the Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies Autumn Day stamp and postcard fair on 20 September 2014. Eight dealers and eight clubs had tables at the Graig Community Centre in Bassaleg. Thanks go to all who helped or attended especially to Janice Bentley, who organised some excellent refreshments.



### Recent meetings

The 2013/4 season ended with a members' evening on "collecting and displaying thematics" and the annual general meeting.

The club agreed to move the monthly summer meetings from members' houses to the usual meeting venue at the Civic Centre. This enabled us to fit in a re-arranged visit from members of the Barry club. We also had an additional bring, buy and swap evening and an evening to make the final plans for the Autumn Day.

The new season started with the traditional "new acquisitions" when members displayed a wide range of new material. There was then a three week gap to fit in with the timing of the Autumn Day. For that evening we were entertained by members of the Cardiff club, with Roger Gilbert showing some Cardiff postal history and East Africa, Jan displaying catapult mail, Phil Marsden with South African airmail and new member Paul Clarke showing South Africa during the second world war.

On 22 October Ian Spencer from the Bristol Woodlands club, who was the first visiting speaker of the season, showed a wide selection of cinderellas and railway material. We followed this at the next meeting with a repeat of the summer bring and buy. We also invited Roy Holliss (Cover Love), who brought some rummage boxes from which members found some very interesting additions to their collections.

### Juniors

Roy Bentley and Martyn Britton ran a stamp collecting day on 6 September at the Newport Central Library. Newport was quiet on this day, which followed the Newport Summit, but they were kept busy during the day. The staff were very helpful and will welcome us again in February 2015.

Bev Davies starts the new season of the stamp club at The Dell School Chepstow on 20 November and a new round of school visits are in the pipeline.

### Stamp News

With nothing produced to commemorate the NATO meeting at the Celtic Manor on 4 and 5 September 2014, it was left to your secretary to create a "first day cover". Not only that but it is a unique item.



I have also discovered a new commemorative postmark for Newport dating from 1985. It was one of a series celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GWR.



The Newport Scouts and Guides stamps were issued on 1 November 2014. They are similar in design to those produced for earlier years with the same rate of 20p as in 2013. This is a bargain compared with the 53p charged by Royal Mail. All ten designs are of the same Newport landmarks but the sponsor for the new bridge has changed to WT Laminates and the order of the designs has also changed. The designs are set out in strips of ten. The illustration below shows the left-hand and right-hand separately to allow me to fit them into this Newsletter.



## RPSL & Welsh Philatelic Society (WPS)

The history of the Newport and Gwent Philatelic Society, first printed in 1947 for the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and kept up to date on the club website is now in the RPSL library.

The display of the RPSL material at the Welsh Philatelic Society weekend in Tan y Bwlch, attended by myself and Martyn Britton, was well-

received and is now being written up in the society Newsletter. My article on the Queen Anne's Bounty has also appeared in the Newsletter.

The WPS has now changed its name to the Welsh Postal History Society (WPHS).

## Federation News

The club had three senior entries at the annual convention. Les Ashton-Smith gained the thematic trophy with his entry on the S.S. Leonardo da Vinci. John Perry (Monmouthshire: Queen Anne's Bounty) and Neil Jones (New Zealand Airmail Stamps) both gained silver medals. In the Junior class, our two entries, Blue Planet (Jensen Coppen) and All Aboard (George Smith) also gained medals. Neil's aerophilately entry was reprised at the Wiltshire Federation, where it gained first prize, and his display of Chalons was awarded 'Best in Show'.

As most of you know, Chris Doble passed away this summer. I saw him last at the Cardiff City Hall fair just a few days before he died. We talked about music and the bands he used to play in.

At its AGM the South Wales Federation elected your secretary, John Perry, as its new chairman and Graham Bean as the new vice chairman. The club now has a strong voice on the committee. The first action will be to decide on the future of the Annual Convention. With falling numbers attending and a reduction in the number of dealers committed to attend in 2015, the committee will need to decide on its future. The Committee will also ensure that the Stamp Active rules for junior competition entries are enshrined in the Federation Handbook.

## Europhilex

The next international stamp exhibition in the UK is Europhilex, which takes place in London from 13 to 16 May 2015. The Newport society has sponsored frames at the exhibition. The organisers have acknowledged this on the exhibition website and the society's name will also appear on the frames and in the exhibition catalogue. Please make a note in your diaries as this will be the first such event since 2010 and is not to be missed.

John Perry, Honorary Secretary (Tel: 01633 881068)